

Appl. No.: 10/017,924
Attorney Docket No. 10541-775
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2004

IV. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-10, 11-12, 14, and 16-17 have been amended and Claims 3-4, 20-25, 30, and 32-33 have been cancelled. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1, 5-19 remain pending in the application.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figure 10 is out of proportion. Accordingly, the Applicants have amended Figure 10 as per the Examiner's suggestions.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawings because they fail to show the first direction and the opposite direction of the torsions of portions 30a and 30c. The Applicants assert that in light of the amendments to the claims and the specification, that the figures are in accordance with 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the corrected sheet of drawings, and withdraw these objections to the drawings.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 9, and 10 have been objected to by the Examiner for informalities. Accordingly, the Applicants have cancelled claim 4 and have amended claims 9 and 10 according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these objections to the claims.

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Rejections Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-8, 14-25, 30, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Accordingly, the Applicants have amended the claims to recite "about 10' to about 1 degree" as originally claimed, and have amended the claims to remove the recitation of a first twist and a second twist in a direction opposite the first twist. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9, 11-14, 16-25, 30, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,927,165, issued to Vasudeva (Vasudeva) and U.S. Patent No. 3,733,937, issued to Mezey (Mezey).

The Applicants have amended claims 9, and 14 to more clearly describe the claimed invention and assert that Vasudeva and Mezey do not disclose each and every element of the invention as described in claims 9 and 14. Specifically, Vasudeva and Mezey do not disclose:

"one of the first and second polygonal interfaces has a first straight segment, a second straight segment, and a twisted segment positioned between the first and second straight segments wherein, the first segment, the second segment, and the twisted segment all engage the other one of the first and second polygonal interfaces"

Accordingly, the Applicants assert that claims 9 and 14, as amended, are allowable over Vasudeva and Mezey, and that claims 11-13 and 16-19 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claims 9 and

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14 respectively. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,634,991, issued to Stevens (Stevens) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,533,235, issued to Dymerski et al. ("Dymerski").

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mezey.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vasudeva and Mezey in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,277,107, issued to Stone (Stone).

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, and 14 to more clearly describe the claimed invention and assert that none of the combined references disclose each and every element of the invention as described in independent claims 1, 9 and 14. Specifically, none of the combined references disclose:

"one of the first and second polygonal interfaces has a first straight segment, a second straight segment, and a twisted segment positioned between the first and second straight segments wherein, the first segment, the second segment, and the twisted segment all engage the other one of the first and second polygonal interfaces"

Accordingly, the Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 9 and 14, as amended, are allowable over the cited references and that claims 5-8, 10, and 15 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent

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claims 1, 9 and 14 respectively. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

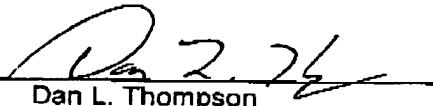
Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 1, and 5-19 as amended are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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